

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting growth of cancer cells in a patient, comprising: administering to said patient an effective amount of an antagonist of STAT (signal transducer and activator of transcription) signaling, wherein said antagonist ~~is an antagonist of~~ antagonizes STAT homodimer DNA binding and wherein said antagonist noncovalently binds to a STAT polypeptide.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said STAT is STAT3.
3. – 18. (cancelled).
19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said antagonist of STAT homodimer DNA binding disrupts SH2-pY interactions between the SH2 domain of one STAT polypeptide monomer and a pY on another STAT polypeptide monomer.
20. (cancelled).
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide.
22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide that binds to full-length STAT3.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide that binds the SH2 domain of STAT3.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide ~~that disrupts SH2-pY interactions.~~

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35, SEQ ID NO: 36, SEQ ID NO: 37, or SEQ ID NO: 38.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, or SEQ ID NO: 16.

27. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, or SEQ ID NO: 19.

28. - 32. (cancelled).

33. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said STAT polypeptide is monomeric.

34. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said STAT polypeptide is dimeric.